

**ELEVENTH MEETING OF
THE CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO ADVISORY BOARD (CARAB)**

DATE: Friday, September 11, 1998

TIME: 09:00 to 15:00

PLACE: Radio Amateurs of Canada Headquarters

720 Belfast Road, Ottawa Ontario

CHAIR: Mike Connolly

PARTICIPANTS: INDUSTRY CANADA: Mike Connolly, Tom Jones, John Nosotti, Kathleen Mcree, Darius Breau, Harold Carmichael.

RAC: Bill Gillis, Jim Dean, Doug Leach, Ken Pulfer, Daniel Lamoureux, Debbie Norman, Patrick Doherty, Farrell Hopwood,

1. OPENING REMARKS

The chair acknowledged that this would be the last CARAB meeting with Farrell Hopwood as president of RAC and he wished to congratulate him on the fine job he had done and his valuable service to the amateur community. The chair also wished to acknowledge Patrick Doherty as the incumbent president of RAC and wished him the best of luck in this new position. Farrell Hopwood responded that he had enjoyed his term as RAC president and felt that the working relationship between RAC and Industry Canada had been productive and congratulated Industry Canada on the professional manner in which they had conducted the CARAB meetings.

2. ACCEPTENCE OF THE MAY 26, 1998 MINUTES

Under the Terms of Reference of CARAB, the co-chairs are required to approve the summary record of the last meeting before it can be finalized. As this approval has not yet been forthcoming, there is no summary record to distribute at this time for CARAB 10.

Additionally RAC would like to revisit some of the text of the summary record of CARAB 9 as they felt it may not adequately reflect the discussions that took place. The chair noted that, in accordance with

Roberts Rules of Procedure for the summary record of meetings, this is quite acceptable and Industry Canada would be prepared to discuss this item further. It was agreed that further discussion of both the CARAB 10 and CARAB 9 summary records should be done by RAC and Industry Canada representatives outside of the meeting.

3. STATUS REPORT ON RAC'S 10 METRE PROPOSAL

As had been discussed at the last CARAB meeting, RAC had forwarded a formal request to Industry Canada to amend the operating qualifications for amateurs with respect to the 10 metre band. Industry Canada intends to publish a Gazette notice in the near future proposing this change and soliciting public comment. As there are a number of other issues with respect to the amateur service that are currently underway, it is anticipated that these items will be handled concurrently.

4. STREAMLINING THE AUTHORIZATION PROCESS FOR THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

Industry Canada gave a presentation with respect to the current proposal to streamline the authorization process for the amateur service.

RAC advised that they are not against the concept of streamlining the authorization process. However, RAC has major concerns with respect to certain elements in the proposal, principally how it severely restricts the ability of amateurs to self police unauthorized operation and other violations. RAC asked that a data base of authorizations with current amateur mailing addresses be maintained through a mandatory requirement for reporting any address change within six months. As well, RAC would like some clarification as what could potentially be the effect on the status of the amateur service if it becomes an unlicensed service.

Industry Canada indicated that they intend to continue with the maintenance of addresses of amateurs with respect to the certificate of authorization. However, RAC stated that though they recognize this, they believe that some form of mandatory requirement for amateurs to advise Industry Canada of a change of mailing address must be included in the streamlining proposal. RAC stated that just allowing amateurs the opportunity to change their address in a public data base doesn't go far enough. There needs to be some mechanism that requires amateurs to ensure that their mailing address is current.

Industry Canada stated that they understand the RAC concern and will examine options that they could be put in place to appropriately address this concern.

Discussion then took place with respect to the potential loss of regulatory status that the amateur radio service may suffer due to de-licensing. The RAC stated that there is a concern that unlicensed operation may mean that the current regulatory enforcement structure will no longer apply.

Industry Canada stated that it is the intent of the discussion paper to identify that there will be no loss of regulatory status with the delicensing initiative. Amendments will be required to the current Radiocommunication Regulations to ensure that all the current regulations will still apply to the new authorization, which will be the operator certificate. It is recognized that there is some confusion with respect the type of privilege that is conveyed by a radio license and an operator certificate. In the Radiocommunication Act, both types of authorization are used by the Minister. It will be clearly indicated, when the gazette notice is published, exactly what regulations will be amended and how they will be applicable to the amateur service.

The draft discussion paper was reviewed in detail. A discussion then took place with respect to the clarification of various items in the discussion paper. A number of suggestions were made as to how some changes could be made to these items to further clarify the points. It was also pointed out that perhaps additional emphasis is required to clarify that the certificate will be a legal authority and that it will authorize the operation of an amateur radio station. RAC stated that they would work on a communiqué to be issued after the CARAB meeting indicating that they were encouraged by the positive response received from Industry Canada officials with respect to addressing their concerns.

5. IMPACT OF EXPANDING USE OF LICENSE EXEMPT, LOW POWER DEVICES

RAC is concerned that with the trend toward more wireless services, more low power wireless devices are appearing on the market. These devices, along with licensed services, tend to share frequency bands with the amateur service, that is, on many instances, a secondary allocation. RAC is concerned about the future impact on the amateur service as a trend to de-regulation of radio services continues. Industry Canada agreed that the proliferation of wireless services will continue to escalate and it is very difficult to determine how the future will unfold. However, license exempt services are still required to operate within a regulatory framework and it

should not be perceived that simply because a device is licence exempt, it can operate without restrictions.

6. STATUS REPORT ON RAC APPLICATION FOR A 2.4 GHz PRIMARY ALLOCATION

RAC made an application with Industry Canada in July for a primary allocation at 2.4 GHz for the amateur service. This was undertaken as a result of what has taken place in the United States with respect to the amateur primary allocation. Industry Canada will investigate to determine the current status of this item.

7. ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT SALES AND OPERATION OF FAMILY RADIO SERVICE (FRS)

In the United States, a low power, license exempt, hand held radio unit, called FRS, operates in the UHF land mobile bands. Some of these units have appeared in Canada and there have been requests by manufacturers to sell this radio equipment in Canada. As a result Industry Canada will soon be releasing a Gazette notice with respect to the potential introduction of this specific radio service in Canada. Industry Canada indicated that it hoped a discussion document on this issue would be available for public comment by the fall. Industry Canada also indicated that this is a fairly complex issue, as there are many licensed stations in Canada that currently operate on these FRS frequencies and they could experience harmful interference from unlicensed operations.

8. REVISION OF EXAMINATION QUESTION BANKS

In preparation for delegation, the Ham exam software and revised examination questions were developed. Industry Canada had informed RAC at the last CARAB meeting that they still intended to implement the new question banks and RAC was interested in knowing what was planned in this regard.

Industry Canada advised that they still intend to implement the revised question banks as they have been developed, however they would like to proceed with the streamlining initiative for the amateur service first. Therefore, it is difficult at this time to provide an exact date that the new examination could be implemented. RAC advised that they will require several months lead time from the time that the question banks became publicly available until implementation of the new examinations in order that the delegated examiners can be appropriately equipped.

9. AUDIT OF DELEGATED EXAMINERS

At the last CARAB RAC had intended to put together a proposal for Industry Canada, outlining recommendations that could be put in place for auditing delegated examiners, however they have not had the opportunity to do this. Industry Canada stated that they intend to modify Radiocommunication Information Circular (RIC)-1, with respect to amateur examination procedures and would certainly invite comment by RAC before finalizing the document.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A) CALL SIGN WORKING GROUP

As discussed at the last CARAB meeting, RAC, in conjunction with RAQI had conducted a wide consultation with Canadian amateurs with respect to the report of the Call Sign Working Group (CSWG). The CSWG report had been published in *The Canadian Amateur* as well as *Radioamateur du Québec* and carried on the RAC and RAQI web pages. Comments were solicited from all radio amateurs in both official languages and, over a period of three months, a total of 105 replies were received. A letter was recently sent from RAC to Industry Canada, summarizing the findings of their review and proposing recommendations to Industry Canada for the implementation of the CSWG report.

Industry Canada replied that as they had just recently received the letter from RAC they could not at this time comment with respect to any specific recommendations. One of the points that had been strongly voiced by amateurs was their desire to see call sign policy applied in a consistent manner across the country. Industry Canada anticipated that with the proposed streamlining initiative and service delivery from a single office, these situations of inconsistency in the application of call sign policy would likely disappear.

B) TOWER DIFFICULTIES ON THE WEST COAST

RAC indicated that they were still experiencing some difficulties on the west coast with respect to tower installations and land-use authorities not being familiar with Industry Canada policy. RAC did not want to discuss in detail these situations as they were being handled at the local level on a case by case basis. The only point in bringing this item to CARAB was merely to inform Industry Canada that some municipalities in the country were unfamiliar with the consultation process.

11. PREPARATION FOR THE 12TH MEETING

The 12th meeting of CARAB will be held in Ottawa on the afternoon of May 27, 1999 at Industry Canada headquarters in Ottawa.